



LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

News Release

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Air Force Announces First Munitions Storage Area Land Acquisition

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – Air Force officials announced today the acquisition of approximately 143 acres of land adjacent to the base munitions storage area.

The acquisition is the first real-estate transaction completed as part of a two-phase Air Force project to increase force protection of the munitions storage area and to preserve access to the Barry M. Goldwater Range from Luke AFB.

The munitions storage area phase of the program targeted approximately \$6 million in Fiscal Year 2003 military construction appropriations for land acquisition and associated security construction projects around the base's munitions storage area.

The 142.95 acre purchase from Sun Health Properties, Inc. represents more than half of the projected MSA land acquisition announced by the Air Force in March. That plan called for the purchase of approximately 273 acres of land to physically connect the munitions storage area to base proper and create a security buffer zone around the MSA.

“This is another step in a long list of actions taken as part of a broad ongoing effort to support F-16 fighter training,” said Col Robin Rand, 56th Fighter Wing commander. “We are pleased with this and all future measures that will further improve our force protection posture while addressing encroachment issues and the long-term viability of Luke’s mission.”

Mr. Joe Derungs, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ program manager for the munitions storage area and Luke flight corridor acquisitions, said, “This puts us well on the way to securing the land Luke AFB needs to enhance force protection of this critical asset. It is a significant milestone.

Mr. Derungs said the Corps of Engineers is also very close to finalizing the first real estate transaction in the Luke flight corridors.

The second phase of the Air Force plan is designed to sustain the 56th Fighter Wing’s long-term access to the Barry M. Goldwater Range through the acquisition of perpetual land use restrictive easements.

“This process allows the property owners continued compatible use of the land while ensuring the integrity of the Luke Flight Corridors,” said Mr. Derungs.

The Air Force plans to first acquire easements in those areas closest to the base where arriving and departing aircraft are lowest to the ground. Basically, the Air Force will start with areas defined as “clear” zones at each end of the flight line. The Air Force may then expand to selected accident potential zones further from the end of the runways.

The Air Force estimates the acquisition effort of the flight corridors will continue through 2005.

For additional information about the munitions storage area or flight corridor acquisitions, contact the Arizona/Nevada Area Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (602) 640-2015 or the Los Angeles District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs at (213) 452-3925. Public information is also available on the Corps of Engineers website at www.spl.usace.army.mil.

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